

ATTACHMENT A

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing pestivirus-like particles *ex vivo* comprising the steps of:

- providing a first nucleic acid sequence comprising a ~~packaging competent retroviral derived genome~~packaging competent genome from a retrovirus;
- providing a second nucleic acid sequence comprising a cDNA encoding core proteins from said retrovirus;
- providing a third nucleic acid sequence comprising a cDNA encoding a polyprotein comprising successively a pestivirus core protein, and a Erns protein and/or pestivirus E1 protein and/or a pestivirus E2 protein, and optionally a pestivirus p7 protein;
- transfecting host cells with said nucleic acid sequences and maintaining the transfected cells in culture for sufficient time to allow expression of the cDNAs to produce structural proteins from pestivirus and retrovirus;
- cleaving the pestivirus core protein from the polyprotein and allowing the structural proteins to form virus-like particles which do not include the pestivirus core protein.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said ~~packaging competent retroviral derived genome~~packaging competent genome from a retrovirus and core proteins are from a retrovirus selected from the group consisting of murine

leukemia virus (MLV), avian leukosis virus (ALV), respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), Mason-Pfizer monkey virus (MPMV), human immunodeficiency virus 1 (HIV-1), human immunodeficiency virus 2 (HIV-2), simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV), equine infectious anemia virus (EIAV), caprine arthritis encephalitis virus (CAEV), or and human foamy virus (HFV).

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein core, Erns, E1 and E2 pestivirus proteins, and optionally p7 pestivirus protein, are derived from thea same pestivirus.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said pestivirus is selected from the group consisting of bovine viral diarrhea virus, swine fever virus, and border disease virus.

5. (Previously Presented) An infectious pestivirus-like particle obtainable by a method according to claim 1, comprising the core proteins from a retrovirus, and a Erns pestivirus protein and/or a E1 pestivirus protein and/or a E2 pestivirus protein, and optionally a p7 pestivirus protein.

6. (Currently Amended) The infectious particle according to claim 5, wherein Erns, E1 protein and E2 protein, and optionally p7 pestivirus protein, are ~~derived from~~ thea same pestivirus.

7. (Previously Presented) The infectious particle according to claim 6, wherein said pestivirus is selected from the group consisting of bovine viral diarrhea virus, swine fever virus, and border disease virus.

8. (Currently amended) The infectious particle according to claim 5, wherein said retrovirus is selected from the group consisting of MLV, ALV, RSV, MPMV, HIV-1, HIV-2, SIV, EIAV, CAEV, ~~or~~and HFV.

9. (Withdrawn) A method of vaccination of a subject against a pestivirus infection, said method comprising:

vaccinating a subject with a vaccine comprising

- a first nucleic acid sequence comprising a packaging competent retroviral-derived genome;
- a second nucleic acid sequence comprising a cDNA encoding core proteins from said retrovirus;
- a third nucleic acid sequence comprising a cDNA encoding a polyprotein comprising successively a pestivirus core protein, and a pestivirus Erns protein and/or a pestivirus E1 protein and/or a pestivirus E2 protein, and optionally a pestivirus p7 protein;

which when transferred into cells of a subject, the nucleic acid sequences allow the production of structural proteins from pestivirus and retrovirus, wherein the structural proteins form virus-like particles that are immunogenic.

10. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 9, wherein said pestivirus is selected from the group consisting of bovine viral diarrhea virus, swine fever virus, and border disease virus.